

F. Origins and Languages

Ancestry

Place of Birth, Citizenship and
Year of Entry

Language Spoken at Home

HOW WE ASK IT

*[Sample item]***10 What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin?**

(For example: Italian, Jamaican, African Am., Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian, and so on.)

WHAT IT MEANS FOR EVERYONE

Federal Uses (also see the selected statutory uses on the opposite page):

- Required to enforce provisions under the Civil Rights Act which prohibit discrimination based upon race, sex, religion, and national origin
- Used to measure the social and economic characteristics of ethnic groups and to tailor services to accommodate cultural differences
- Needed by the Dept. of Labor to draw samples for surveys that provide employment data

Community Impact:

- Assists states and local agencies to develop health care and other services tailored to meet the language and cultural diversity of the elderly
- Identifies, under the Public Health Service Act, segments of the population who may not be receiving needed medical services

WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

This question asks the ancestry of all persons, no matter how many generations they have been in this country. Respondents are asked to write in the name of an ancestry group. For individuals who think of themselves as having more than one origin, they are able to write in their multiple ancestry, e.g., German-Irish. This self-identification approach recognizes that strong ethnic identity is not limited to just first- and second-generation immigrants.

SELECTED STATUTORY USES

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MANDATORY NEED

PLACE OF BIRTH, CITIZENSHIP, and *place of birth asked since 1850*
YEAR OF ENTRY *citizenship asked 1820-1830, 1870, 1890-1990*
..... *year of entry asked 1890-1930, 1970-1990*

HOW WE ASK IT *[Sample item]*

12 Where was this person born?

☐ In the United States — *Print name of state.*

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☐ Outside the United States — *Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc.*

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13 Is this person a **CITIZEN** of the United States?

☐ Yes, born in the United States → *Skip to 15a*

☐ Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas

☐ Yes, born abroad of American parent or parents

☐ Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization

☐ No, not a citizen of the United States

14 When did this person come to live in the United States? *Print numbers in boxes.*

Year

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WHAT IT MEANS FOR EVERYONE

Federal Uses (*also see the selected statutory uses on the opposite page*):

- Provides essential data to set and evaluate immigration policies and laws
- Needed, under the Voting Rights Act, for the Census Bureau to identify communities where more than five percent of citizens of voting age (or at least 10,000 voting-age citizens) are members of a single language minority or are limited-English proficient
- Needed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (JUSTICE) to project staffing and other resource needs for non-citizens to complete the naturalization process

Community Impact:

- Used, under the Refugee Education Assistance Act, to allocate funds to nonprofit organizations for employment resources aimed at making the foreign born economically self-sufficient
- Used by state and local agencies on aging to develop health care and other services tailored to the language and cultural diversity of the foreign-born elderly
- Required to evaluate voting practices of governmental subdivisions (e.g., states and counties) under the Voting Rights Act

WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

This series of questions is used to describe the population as native and foreign born. *Place of birth* is needed to provide information about whether the population was born in the United States, Puerto Rico, the Island Areas, or in a foreign country. Vital information on lifetime migration patterns also comes from the place of birth question. Information on citizenship is used to classify the population as foreign born individuals who are naturalized citizens and those who are not. The native population also includes individuals who are born in a foreign country but have at least one American parent. Separate information for name of U.S. state or foreign country is needed to prevent confusion with geographic names. For example, the state of Georgia could be confused with the country of Georgia (formerly part of the Soviet Union). The question on citizenship does not attempt to determine the legal status of immigrants. *Year of entry* is needed to determine how long foreign-born persons have lived in the United States.

PLACE OF BIRTH, CITIZENSHIP, and *place of birth asked since 1850*
YEAR OF ENTRY (continued) *citizenship asked 1820-1830, 1870, 1890-1990*
..... *year of entry asked 1890-1930, 1970-1990*

SELECTED STATUTORY USES

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LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME *(continued)* asked 1890-1940, 1960-1990**AGENCIES****SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

- COMMERCE Voting Rights Act - Bilingual Election Requirements--M
[42 U.S.C. 1973aa-1a]

- EDUCATION Migratory Children Program--R [20 U.S.C. 2781],
Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act--R
[20 U.S.C. 2421],
Bilingual Education Act--R
[20 U.S.C. 3281, 3291 (part a), 3301 (part b), 3321 (part c)],
Grants for Basic Skills of Dropouts--P [20 U.S.C. 7261-7268 (replaces 20 U.S.C. 3245 & 3246)],
Provisions on Higher Education to Serve Adult Learners--R
[20 U.S.C. 1002 & 1011],
Adult Education Act--R [20 U.S.C. 1201 as amended by P.L. 102-73],
Emergency Immigrant Education Act--P [20 U.S.C. 3121]

- EEOC National Origin Discrimination Guidelines--P [29 C.F.R. 1606],
EEOC Compliance Manual--P [Volume II § 623, 6(a)],
Civil Rights Act (Section 109 on Extra-territorial Employment)--P
[P.L. 102-166, 105 Stat. 1077]

- EPA Regulatory Review--P [Executive Order 12866, Oct. 1, 1993];
Environmental Justice--P [Executive Order 12898, Feb. 11, 1994];
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act--P [42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.];
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act--P
[42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.]

- HHS Older Americans Act--P
[42 U.S.C. 3002, 3026(a)(1), 3027(a)(8)],
Refugee Education Assistance Act--R [8 U.S.C. 1521-1523],
Public Health Service Act--P
[42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)(A) & (B), 254e(b) & (d) & 254f-1]

- HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Evaluation--P [42 U.S.C. 12701]

- JUSTICE Voting Rights Act of 1965--R
[42 U.S.C. 1973 et seq., 28 C.F.R. Part 55],
Equal Employment Opportunity Act--R [42 U.S.C. 2000e]

- LABOR Immigration Act of 1990--P
[8 U.S.C. 1182 note & 1182(a)(5)(A)],
Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986--P
[8 U.S.C. 1364]